

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING THE SUSSEX COUNTY METH TASK FORCE FOR ITS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the citizens who have spent the last 2½ years working to keep the people of Sussex County safe from methamphetamines as part of the Sussex County Meth Task Force. My staff and I have had the honor of working with these committed individuals over the years and have borne witness to the gusto with which they have performed their work.

Only a few years ago, as local meth labs were busted and drug use seemed to be on the rise, the people of Sussex County did not stand idly by. Instead, they formed this task force and set to training local law enforcement, informing citizens, and quite literally taking back their streets. They have trained more than 700 volunteer firefighters and others. They have distributed informative “meth packets” to over 165 local retailers. They have worked with local educators and organizations to raise public awareness of the scourge of meth.

The results have been impressive and local law enforcement now feel confident that methamphetamines have not been able to establish a foothold in Sussex County, New Jersey. And so they are disbanding their formal group and spreading the word to show others how they’ve been so successful, including in a presentation at the statewide League of Municipalities conference earlier this week.

Many, many individuals deserve credit for the good work of the Task Force. Tom Davis, the Sussex County Fire Marshal, has served as Task Force Chairperson, shepherding the group through its several goals. Tom Cooney, of the Sussex County Narcotics Task Force, has helped to train hundreds of first responders and others. Dan Coronato has helped to put the Sussex County Task Force in touch with others who can benefit from their model. And Becky Carlson, Barbara Adolphe, Meg Samuel-Siegel, and Jane Butz have been the glue holding them all together, serving as a constant source of information and direction.

I commend the members of the Sussex County Meth Task Force for their extraordinary service to their community and I look forward to continuing to work with them all to keep our streets safe and our schools and neighborhoods drug-free.

PROVIDING THAT THE GREAT HALL OF THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER SHALL BE KNOWN AS EMANCIPATION HALL

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support naming the great hall at the Capitol Visitor Center the “Emancipation Hall.” It is in the spirit of this country’s great advances—particularly in solidifying our most precious values of freedom, equality, and justice—that I urge this body to move forward with this measure. Let the tenets of our great democracy ring down that hall—and throughout all the halls of Congress.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ERIK KRISTENSEN, USN COMSANEL

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an important and emotional ceremony that will take place at the United States Naval Academy’s Hubbard Hall on this Saturday, November 17, 2007.

Hubbard Hall is home to Navy’s crew teams, and there, a rowing shell will be dedicated in memory of an extraordinary graduate of the USNA Class of 1995, LCDR Erik Samsel Kristensen. While leading a rescue effort in support of U.S. Navy SEALs under heavy enemy fire, Lieutenant Commander Kristensen was killed in action in Asadabad, Afghanistan on June 28, 2005. In that engagement, our Nation, our Navy, and the Kristensen family lost a young warrior son who exemplified the honor, courage and commitment that is the very soul of our Navy and the Naval Academy. In the time since Lieutenant Commander Kristensen’s sacrifice, he has been accorded honors richly deserved. However, in organizing the effort to name a racing shell in his memory, his classmate and shipmate, Mr. Brooks McFeely, found a unique and lasting medium to communicate the courage, determination and selflessness that characterized his great friend’s life.

Over the years Hubbard Hall has been a crucible of leadership development under the guidance of coaching legends including Rusty Callow, Carl Ullrich, and Rick Clothier. Home to Olympians, scholars, and most importantly, warriors, Hubbard Hall has a rich tradition of honing the work ethic, competitive spirit and teamwork essential to victory in peace and war.

Madam Speaker, it is essential that we honor Lieutenant Commander Erik Kristensen,

a leader who epitomized the Navy rower as described by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

“Is life less than a boat race? If a man will give the blood in his body to win the one, will he spend all the might of his soul to prevail in the other?”

To the men and women at Hubbard Hall who follow the example of LCDR Erik Kristensen, that will always be a rhetorical question. In honor of a great man and his family, the people of the United States of America wish Godspeed and great victories to the shell ‘Kristensen’ and the midshipmen fortunate to row in that testament to honor and courage.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3074, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this final FY 08 Transportation-HUB Appropriations Conference Report for the key infrastructure investments it makes and the housing support it provides.

In the aftermath of the 1–35 bridge collapse in Minneapolis this summer, it should be clear to every American that we can no longer afford the Bush Administration’s policy of deferring needed maintenance to our nation’s infrastructure—or shrink from the infrastructure investments necessary for the safe and vibrant America we are committed to building in the 21st century.

That’s why this bill invests \$40.2 billion to improve and maintain our Nation’s highways, including an additional \$1 billion to ensure the safety of our bridges. Additionally, we allocate \$9.65 billion to the Federal Transit Administration for capital improvements to our commuter and light rail systems in order to encourage the use of mass transit, alleviate traffic congestion and reduce pollution. We wisely reject President Bush’s effort to bankrupt Amtrak and instead provide \$1.45 billion to support our national rail system and the 24 million passengers it serves. And we provide \$3.5 billion for vital airport modernization initiatives designed to expand airport capacity, make critical safety improvements and expand noise mitigation efforts.

On the housing front, we fund 15,500 new vouchers for vulnerable populations like low-income families, homeless veterans and the disabled. We spend \$145 million—or \$29 million over the President’s request—to protect children from lead poisoning. We invest \$3.79 billion in the Community Development Block Grant, CDBG program to revitalize neighborhoods across the nation. And we allocate \$200 million to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for its work counseling the

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